THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND;

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the 2d Day of *May* 1717.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,
Printed by the Heirs and Succeſſors of *Andrew Anderſon*,
Printers to the Church of *SCOTLAND*, M.DCC.XVII.

ACTS

OF THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

SCOTLAND

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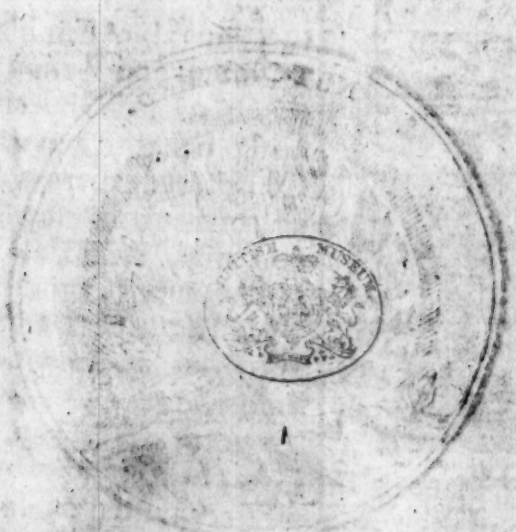

ACTS OF THE General Assembly OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND;

Holden and begun at *EDINBURGH*, upon *Thursday* the 2d Day of *May*, 1717, and ending the 15th Day of that same Month and Year.

I.

ACT *Appointing the* KING's *Commission to* JOHN *Earl of* Rothes, *to be recorded.*

At *Edinburgh* 2d *May* 1717, Sess. 1.

THE General Assembly of the Ministers and Ruling Elders of this National Church of *Scotland*, being Conveened and Constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable, *John* Earl of *Rothes*, His Majesty's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the *Treaty of Union* betwixt the two Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England*, to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, of the same Tenor with the Commission granted by His Majesty to the foresaid Earl the last Year, and also in the Year One thousand seven hundred and fifteen, Constituting him His Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; Which Commission, being publickly read with all due Honour and Respect, is ordered by this Assembly to be recorded in their Books, to remain therein, *ad futuram Rei Memoriam.*

II.

The KING's most Gracious LETTER to the General Assembly, presented to them by His Majesty's Commissioner 2d May 1717.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and Well beloved, We Greet you well: The constant Zeal and Affection of the Church of *Scotland*, to Our Person and Government, which neither the Force and Violence of Our open Enemies, nor the artful Contrivances of factious and ill-designing Men, has been able to alter, gives Us great Satisfaction; And as We expect from you, renewed Proofs of the same good Disposition, We willingly countenance your General Assembly, and give you fresh Assurances of Our firm Resolution to promote the Interest, and inviolably to maintain the Rights and Privileges of the Presbyterian Church of *Scotland*.

We have again made Choice of Our Right Trusty and entirely beloved Cousin, *John* Earl of *Rothes*, to be Our Commissioner, and to represent Our Royal Person in this present Assembly, being confident that none can be more acceptable to you than he, whose Concern for the Church of *Scotland*, as well as Zeal for Our Service, is so well known.

As there is nothing We can have more at Heart, than the promoting of true Religion and Piety, the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, and the preventing the Growth of Popery: So We doubt not, but you, on your Parts, will do every Thing that may contribute to these great and good Ends, and as We have had great Satisfaction in your former good Conduct; so We are confident that you will, on this Occasion, act with that Moderation, Prudence, and Unanimity, as most becometh Men of your Character, which will most effectually entitle you to Our Countenance and Favour: So We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at St. James's *the seventeenth Day of* April, *One thousand seven hundred and seventeen, in the third Year of Our Reign.*

By His Majesty's Command,
ROXBURGHE.

Directed thus,

To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of SCOTLAND.

III.

The General Assembly's ANSWER *to the* KING's *most Gracious* LETTER.

Edinburgh, 4th *May* 1717, Sess. 3.

May it Please Your Majesty,

IT is with the greatest Satisfaction, we have the Honour of Your Majesty's most gracious Letter, Your great Goodness in taking Notice of the constant and unalterable Zeal of the Church of *Scotland*, for Your Royal Person and Government, in Opposition to the Violence of open Enemies, and the artful Contrivances of factious, and ill-designing Men doth animate us to exert our selves with the outmost Vigour in all Acts of Duty and Loyalty to Your Majesty, to which we are under the strongest Ties, and are much encouraged by the fresh Assurances Your Majesty gives us, of Your firm Resolution, to promote the Interest, as well as maintain inviolably the Rights and Privileges of this Church.

The Earl of *Rothes*, his known Abilities for this high Trust, his Zeal and Faithfulness in Your Majesty's Service, and the frequent and unquestionable Proofs he hath given of his good Affection to our Church, particularly in former Assemblies, renders your Majesty's Choice of him to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, most acceptable to us.

We should be most inexcusable, if we were wanting to contribute our best and outmost Endeavours, for promoting true Religion and Piety, suppressing Vice and Immorality, and preventing the Growth of Popery, when we find our selves placed in such happy Circumstances, as to have all Encouragement to prosecute those great and good Ends from a Prince upon the Throne, who hath them so much at Heart, of which we have a particular Instance in Your Majesty's Care, to promote the pious Design of erecting Schools in those Places, where Ignorance and Popery do most prevail.

Your Majesty's Gracious Approbation of our former Conduct and Confidence in our Moderation, Prudence and Unanimity, adds to the Obligations, whereby we judge our selves most strictly bound to behave in such a Manner, as may entitle us humbly to hope for the Continuance of Your Majesty's Royal Favour and Countenance.

That GOD may long preserve Your Majesty in Health and Prosperity, and bless You with an undisturbed and

happy Reign, and that he may eminently favour their Royal Highneſſes, the Prince and Princeſs of *Wales*, their Royal Iſſue, and all Your Royal Family; and that at laſt You may inherit a Crown of Glory, are the Prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt Faithful, moſt Obedient, and moſt Loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of SCOTLAND.

Signed in our Preſence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, By

WILL. MITCHELL Moderator.

IV.

ACT *and Recommendation for the further Encouragement of the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and bringing in the Collections for buying Books,* &c.

Edinburgh, 8th *May*, 1717, Seſſ. 7.

THE which Day, There was preſented and read, a Repreſentation from the Committee of the Society in *Scotland*, for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, ſhewing, That the ſaid Society are very ſenſible of the Care and Concern, which this Church and her Aſſemblies have ſhown for the Succeſs of their Chriſtian Undertaking, and that the kind Aſſiſtance given by this Church to the ſaid Society, has much advanced their Work, particularly the Recommendation of the late General Aſſembly for a Contribution to buy Books, has taken very good Effect in ſome Places; for diverſe charitable Perſons in many Pariſhes have contributed very liberally, tho' there are ſtill ſome few Presbyteries, and ſeveral Pariſhes, deficient in this late Collection, as there are ſome who either have not yet collected or contributed, or at leaſt have not ſent in the Money recommended by the General Aſſembly One thouſand ſever hundred and nine; Wherefore the Committee took this Occaſion, in Name of the Society, to acknowledge the Aſſiſtance given to them by this Church from Time to Time, particularly by the Recommendation

mendation of the late Collection, and earneſtly to entreat, that they would cauſe the Diligence of Synods, Presbyteries and Miniſters in making the foreſaid Collections effectual, to be noticed in the reviſing of the Synod Books, and to be otherwiſe enquired into, and would again preſſingly recommend both to Miniſters and People, deficient in both, or either of the foreſaid Collections, to ſend in the ſame to the Society's Treaſurer as ſoon as poſſible, and alſo to recommend to Synods, Presbyteries and Miniſters, who have failed in obſerving what has been enjoined by former Aſſemblies, as to ſuch Contributions, that with all Diligence they ſet about what is required of them in that Matter, the Committee did not trouble the Aſſembly with a particular Account of the Progreſs and Succeſs of the Society's Undertaking, having done that ſo often before; But for the Encouragement of all Well-wiſhers to that charitable Deſign, they did notifie, That the Society had erected as many Schools in ſuch Places of the *Highlands* and *Iſlands* of *Scotland*, which did moſt need the ſame, as their Revenue can ſupport, and that their ſaid Schools do flouriſh extraordinarly, as would appear from the Records of the Society and Committee, which are patent to all the Contributers that pleaſe to inſpect them, and the Committee did in their ſaid Repreſentation, invite all ſuch of them, as deſired to be ſatisfied, as to the Management and Succeſs of the Society, to call for the Secretary or Clerks of the ſaid Society, who will communicate to them, the Society's ſaid Regiſters and Books, for their Information in the Premiſſes. The General Aſſembly having heard and conſidered this Repreſentation, and the Deliverance of their Committee for Bills thereupon, bearing, That the Deſire thereof ſhould be granted; and having further heard ſome of the Members of the ſaid Society upon the Subject, they enjoined the Viſitors of their Synod Books, in their going through the ſame, to take ſpecial Notice what Care Synods have taken in calling Presbyteries to an Account of their Diligence in promoting the Collections for Chriſtian Knowledge in the ſeveral Pariſhes of their Bounds, according to the Recommendations of former Aſſemblies, and to lay a full and diſtinct Account hereof before the General Aſſembly: And the General Aſſembly again ſeriouſly and earneſtly recommended both to Miniſters and People deficient in both, or either of the foreſaid Collections, yet to collect and contribute with all Chearfulneſs, and to ſend in their Money to *George Watſon* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, the Society's Treaſurer, as ſoon as they can; and further, recommended earneſtly to all Synods, Presbyteries and particular Miniſters, who have failed in what has been enjoined by former Aſſemblies as to ſuch Contributions, to ſet about with all Diligence, what is recommended

mended to them in that Matter. And becauſe it is probable, That there are ſeveral Miniſters who have entred to their Charges ſince the reſpective Dates of the foreſaid Recommendations; and ſo have neither contributed themſelves, nor collected from their People; Therefore, the General Aſſembly did earneſtly deſire the ſaid Intrant Miniſters, both to contribute themſelves, and to ſet about Collecting in their Pariſhes, in the Method preſcribed by the Acts of former Aſſemblies, and that with all Diligence. And, *Laſtly*, The General Aſſembly did moſt ſeriouſly recommend to all the Miniſters and Members of this Church, That they would give all Manner of Encouragement to this ſo pious and charitable an Uundertaking.

V.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing diverſe Matters referred to them.

Edinburgh, 13th *May* 1717. Seſſ. 11.

THE General Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland*, taking to their Conſideration, That there are diverſe weighty Affairs which they cannot overtake, do nominate and appoint their Reverend Brethren, Maſters, *William Mitchell* one of the Miniſters of *Edinburgh* their Moderator, *William Vetch* at *Drumfries*, *Patrick Warner* at *Irving*, *John Gilchriſt* at *Keith*, *Walter Sim* at *Glaſs*, *David Dalrymple* at *Dundorcas*, *Thomas Fairbairn* at *Rothes*, *James Chapman* at *Cromdale*, *Alexander Fraſer* at *Alvie*, *James Thomſon* at *Elgine*, *Charles Primroſe* there, *James Gordon* at *Kinloſs*, *James Chalmers* at *Dyke*, *William Stewart* at *Inverneſs*, *Robert Baillie* there, *Robert Findlay* at *Roſmerkine*, *George Gordon* at *Cromertie*, *Daniel M'Gilligen* at *Alnes*, *Thomas Chiſholm* at *Kilmorak*, *Hugh Duff* at *Ferne*, *Hugh Monro* at *Tain*, *Robert Kirk* at *Dornock*, *John M'Kay* at *Larg*, *William Innes* at *Thurſo*, *James Oliphant* at *Wick*, *Alexander Grant* at *Southronaldſhey*, *James Sands* at *Birſay*, *Thomas Coventrie* at *Sanday*, *John Duncan* at *Breſſay*, *Thomas Hay* at *Tell*, *Robert Sandilands* at *Edinburgh*, *William Hamilton* Profeſſor of Divinity in the College of *Edinburgh*, *Samuel Semple* at *Libbertoun*, *William Miller* at *Edinburgh*, *James Smith* at *Cramond*, *John Walker* at *Canongate*, *William Wiſheart* Principal of the College of *Edinburgh*, *Alexander Dalgliſh* at *Linlithgow*, *John Brand* at *Borrowſtouneſs*, *John Lookup* at *Mid-Calder*, *James Naſmith* at *Dalmenie*, *Robert Livingſton* at *Biggar*, *David Blenſhell* at *Lamingtoun*, *Andrew Mitchell* at *Maner*, *James Robertſon* at *Eccleſtoun*,

John Wallace at Drummelzior, Patrick Cuming at Ormiſtoun, William M George at Pennycook, William Robertſon at Borthwick, Matthew Reid at Northberwick, Robert Horsburgh at Saltpreſtoun, James Craig at Teſter, George Turnbull at Tininghame, William Ogilvie at Innerwick, John Dyſart at Coldinghame, Alexander Lauder at Mordingtoun, James Allan at Eymouth, Lawrence Johnſton at Dunſe, Daniel Sinclair at Longformacus, James Ramſay at Kelſo, William Baxter at Ednam, Alexander Colden at Oxnam, Robert Bell at Cavers, Robert Cuninghame at Hawick, Henry Hume at Chanelkirk, George Logan at Lauder, Thomas Boſtoun at Etrick, Robert Linlithgow at Askirk, Robert Bichat at Middlebee, James Currie at Hodam, Patrick Hume at Kirkmichael, Francis Lindſay at Johnſtoun, George Young at Huttoun, Alexander Robertſon at Tynwall, John M'Murdo at Torthorwald, James Hill at Kilpatrick, Thomas Tod at Deriſdeer, John Pollock at Glencairn, Andrew Cameron at Kirkcudbright, James Monteith at Borgue, Robert Gordon at Croſsmichael, Thomas Campbell at Monygaff, William Cowper at Mochrum, Thomas Kennedy at Ballantree, Archibald Marſhall at Kirkcolm, Andrew Rodger at Galſtoun, William Maitland at Mauchland, Henry Osburn at Torboltoun, Alexander Fairweather at Mayboll, John Steell at Cumnock, Hugh Fawſide at Lowdoun, George Chalmer at Kilwinning, William Reid at Steelſtoun, John Paiſly at Lochinnoch, Robert Wodrow at Eaſtwood, Walter Menzies at Erskine, Archibald Hamilton at Cambuſlang, John Currie at Oldmunckland, Francis Borland at Glaſsfoord, Thomas Linnen at Leſmahego, James Gartſhoar at Carmichael, James Dick at Carluck, John Stirling Principal of the College of Glaſgow, James Clark at Glaſgow, John Hamilton there, John Govan at Campſie, John Ritchie at Old Kilpatrick, David Fleſſeild at Balfron, John Logan at New Kilpatrick, Daniel M'Lauryne at Kilſinan, Robert Glen at Kingarth, Duncan Campbell at Kilchrenan, James Gettie at Inverary, James Bowes at Campbeltoun, John Campbell at Killarew, Daniel Campbell at Kilmore, Alexander Cuniſon in Mull, Daniel M'Aulay in Skie, Murdo M'Leod at Glenelg, William Chalmers at Dunkeld, James Gray at Kinloch, Adam Ferguſon at Logierate, Archibald Campbell at Weem, Samuel Nairn at Erroll, Thomas Black at Perth, Andrew Darline at Kinoul, James Fechney at St. Martine, Michael Potter at Kippen, John M'Callum at Callendar, John Logan at Aloa, John Gray at Doller, Archibald Moncrieff at Blackfoord, John Drummond at Crieff, John Steidman at Auchterarder, James Hog at Carnock, Allan Logan at Torriburn, Alexander Scot at Aberdour, James Henry at Kinghorn, Henry Dall at Kirkcaldie, John Cleghorn at Wemyſs, William Thomſon at Fliſk, William Greenlees at Cires, William Myles at Moonſie, William Knox at Daitſie, William Moncrieff at Largo, Joſeph Drew Principal of St. Leonard's

College of St. *Andrews*, *William Hardie* at St. *Andrews*, *John Craigie* at St. *Monens*, *James Hadow* Principal of the New College of St. *Andrews*, *William Lyon* at *Airly*, *Adam Davidſon* at *Eſſie*, *Robert Pitcairn* at *Ruthven*, *Hugh Maxwell* at *Forfar*, *William Dun* at *Glames*, *Samuel Johnſton* at *Dundee*, *James Adams* at *Kinnaird*, *James Hodge* at *Longforgan*, *George Wemyſs* at *Fearn*, *John Dumbar* at *Menmure*, *David Fergusſon* at *Farnell*, *James Scot* at *Carmylie*, *John Henderſon* at *Kirkden*, *Andrew Honneyman* at *Kinneff*, *David Burn* at *Fettereſſo*, *Henry Hamilton* at *Glenbervie*, *Thomas Blackwell* Profeſſor of Divinity in the College of New *Aberdeen*, *David Anderſon* Profeſſor of Divinity in the King's College there, *Alexander Mitchell* at *Old Machir*, *Alexander Toaſh* at *Tarland*, *John Shepherd* at *Colſtoun*, *Alexander Deans* at *Birſe*, *George Moir* at *Towie*, *William Thain* at *Leſlie*, *William Clarihew* at *Culſalmond*, *Alexander Shand* at *Inch*, *James Brown* at *Aberdour*, *Thomas Udnie* at *Strichen*, *William Forbes* at *Tarves*, *James Burnet* at *Ellon*, *James Innes* at *Bamff*, *Robert Gordon* at *Raphan*, *John Turrine* at *Drumblet*, *Alexander Roſs* at *Auchterleſſe* Miniſters, *John* Duke of *Athol*, *John* Earl of *Rothes*, *David* Earl of *Buchan*, *Thomas* Earl of *Haddingtoun*, *James* Earl of *Findlater*, *William* Earl of *Kilmarnock*, *John* Earl of *Ruglen*, *Patrick* Earl of *Marchmont*, *James* Earl of *Hyndfoord*, *David* Earl of *Glaſgow*, *Archibald* Earl of *Ilay*, *William* Lord *Strathnaver*, *Alexander* Lord *Polwarth*, Lord *Charles Ker* Director of his Majeſty's Chancery, *William* Lord *Roſs*, *James* Lord *Torphichen*, *George* Lord *Rae*, Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *Northberwick* Preſident of the Seſſion, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormiſtoun* Lord Juſtice Clerk, Sir *John Maxwell* of *Nether Pollock* Baronet, Sir *Gilbert Elliot* of *Minto* Baronet, Sir *Alexander Ogilvie* of *Forglen* Baronet, Mr. *James Erskine* of *Grange*, Mr. *James Hamilton* of *Pancaitland*, Sir *Andrew Hume* of *Kimmerghame*, Eight of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, Sir *David Dalrymple* of *Hailes* Baronet His Majeſty's Advocate, Mr. *John Clerk* one of the Barons of Exchequer, Mr. *John Campbell* of *Mamore*, Uncle to his Grace the Duke of *Argyle*, Mr. *Francis Montgomerie* of *Giffan*, Uncle to the Earl of *Eglingtoun*, Colonel *Patrick Ogilvie*, Brother to the Earl of *Findlater*, Colonel *William Dalrymple*, Brother to the Earl of *Stair*, Mr. *Arthur Forbes* of *Breda*, Colonel *John Erskine* of *Carnock*, Mr. *Charles Erskine* Advocate, Sir *James Stewart* of *Goodtrees* His Majeſties Sollicitor, Mr. *Patrick Grant* of *Eaſter Elchies*, Brigadeer General *Alexander Grant* of that Ilk, *James Spence* of *Kirtoun*, *James Brodie* of that Ilk, *Hugh Roſs* of *Kilravoch*, Colonel *Robert Monro* of *Foulis*, Sir *William Gordon* of *Innergordon* Baronet, Mr. *Robert Honneyman* of *Greinſay*, *John Campbell* Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, *Charles Hope* preſent Baillie of *Edinburgh*, Doctor *Alexander Dundas* Phyſician, Mr. *Robert Stewart* one of the Regents in

the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *George Livingston* one of the under Clerks of Session, Doctor *David Mitchell* of *Herdmanstoun*, *William Baillie* of *Lamingtoun*, Mr. *Alexander Menzies* of *Coulterallas* Advocate, *Murray* of *Spittlehaugh*, Sir *John Clerk* of *Pennycook*, Sir *Robert Dalrymple* of *Castletoun*, *Charles Brown* of *Colstoun*, Sir *William Baird* of *Newbyth*, Laird of *Thurstoun*, Sir *John Stewart* of *Allanbank* Baronet, Mr. *John Dickson* of *Antonhill*, Sir *John Pringle* of *Stitchell* Baronet, Sir *Gilbert Elliot* of *Stobs* Baronet, *George Baillie* of *Jerviswood*, *Robert Paterson* of *Drygrange*, Sir *William Johnston* of *Westerhall* Baronet, Sir *Thomas Kilpatrick* of *Closburn* Baronet, Colonel *William Maxwell* of *Cardoness*, *John Martine* of *Airies*, Mr. *Andrew Ross* of *Balsarroch*, Sir *Adam Whiteford* of *Blairhan* Baronet, Mr. *James Boswell* of *Auchinleck* Advocate, *Hugh Montgomerie* of *Hartfield*, Mr. *William Muir* of *Dungarnock* Advocate, Sir *David Stewart* of *Coltness* Baronet, *John Bowman* Provost of *Glasgow*, Sir *James Smollet* of *Bonhill*, Sir *James Campbell* of *Ardkinglass* Baronet, Mr. *Alexander Campbell* Advocate, *Angus Campbell* of *Skipnish*, *Peter Campbell* of *Inverinon*, *William M'Leod* of *Hammer*, *Patrick Yeaman* of *Eastmill*, *William Austine* Provost of *Perth*, Sir *James Holburn* of *Menstrie* Baronet, Brigadeer *James Bruce* of *Kennet*, Colonel *John Blaccader*, Colonel *John Erskine* Uncle to *Alva*, Mr. *Andrew Ramsay* of *Abbotshall*, Mr *Robert Hay* of *Naughtoun*, Mr. *Robert Ramsay* Provost of the old College of St. *Andrews*, *William Young* Merchant in *Coupar* of *Angus*, Mr. *Alexander Duman* of *Lundie*, *John Scrimzeour* of *Tealing* Provost of *Dundee*, *John Gordon* Provost of *Aberdeen*, *Robert Stewart* late Provost there, *George Fordice* of *Bruxie*, *Arthur Forbes* of *Eight*, Captain *John Forbes* of *Boyndlie*, *John Fordice* of *Gask*, Sir *George Warrander* of *Lochend* Baronet, *Henry Cuninghame* of *Balquhan*, Sir *James Hall* of *Dunglass* Baronet, Doctor *Matthew Sinclair* of *Hermistoun*, *Archibald Douglass* of *Cavers*, *Walter Hume* of *Bassenden*, Mr. *Alexander Abercrombie* of *Tullibody* Advocate, Mr. *Archibald Stewart* Advocate, Doctor *Francis Pringle* and Doctor *John Riddel* Physicians, Mr. *Gilbert Burnet* one of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Excise, Mr. *George Drummond* Merchant, Major *James Aikman*, Mr. *Robert Hepburn* of *Stonyflat*, *James Nimmo* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Mr. *Joseph Cave* one of the Officers of His Majesty's Mint, *William Wightman* Deacon Conveener in *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Goodall* Professor of *Hebrew* in the College of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elders, to be Commissioners of the General Assembly, to the Effect after-mentioned, with Power to the said Persons, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty one of the said Commissioners, whereof Twenty one are always to be Ministers, to meet and conveen within the Assembly House at *Edinburgh*, the

firſt Day after the Diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Fore-noon, and afterward, the ſecond *Wedneſday* of *Auguſt*, *November* and *March*, and oftner, when, or where they ſhall think needful and convenient, with Power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chooſe their own Moderator: And ſicklike, the General Aſſembly fully Impowers and Authorizes their ſaid Commiſſion, or their *Quorum* above-mentioned, to Cognoſce and finally to Determine as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, in every Matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this General Aſſembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Inſtructions given, or to be given them by this Aſſembly, and to advert to the Intereſts of the Church on every Occaſion, that the Church and preſent Eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any Prejudice, which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable, providing this general Clauſe be not extended to particular Affairs, or Proceſſes before Presbyteries or Synods, that are not of univerſal Concern to, or Influence upon this whole Church. And it is declared and appointed, That what ſhall be determined at one Diet of the ſaid Commiſſion, with Relation to private Cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in Force till diſapproven by the General Aſſembly: And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed or referred to them as above-mentioned; And in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Conſtitutions of this Church, and do Nothing contrair thereto, or to the Prejudice of the ſame: Declaring, That in and for all their Actings, they ſhall be Accountable to, and Cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe: And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed, and Members are required to attend the Diets of the ſaid Commiſſion, and Abſents therefrom ordered to be noticed, according to the Seventeenth Act of the General Aſſembly, *Anno* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and other Presbyteries within twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for Meetings of the Commiſſion, and ſuch of the Members of theſe Presbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required all of them to give punctual Attendance on the Diets thereof, and Presbyteries at a greater Diſtance, who have four or moe Members on the Commiſſion, are to take Care, That at leaſt two of them attend each Diet of the ſame.

VI. In-

V I.

Instructions by the General Assembly to their Commission.

Edinburgh, 13th *May*, 1717. Seſſ. 11.

1. THE Commiſſion are impowered and appointed to take Care, That what is Enacted and Ordered by this and preceeding Aſſemblies, be duly obſerved by all concerned.

2. The Commiſſion, as often as they ſee Cauſe, are impowered to apply to His Majeſty, or any inferiour Magiſtrate, for the countenancing of, and concurring with the Judicatories of the Church in what the Law allows, and for putting in Execution the Laws againſt Popery and Profaneneſs, and ſeeking Redreſs of Grievances and Abuſes committed contrary to the eſtabliſhed Doctrine, Worſhip, Diſcipline and Presbyterian Government of this Church, the Contempt of the Cenſures of the Judicatories thereof inflicted on ſcandalous Perſons, and to aſſiſt Presbyteries and Synods in planting vacant Kirks, as they ſhall be applied unto by them for that Effect.

3. The Commiſſion are impowered and appointed to uſe all proper Means to preſerve, and maintain all the Rights and Privileges of this Church, and to loſe no Opportunity of applying to obtain a Redreſs of what is grievous, with Reſpect to the ſame, and to ſend Commiſſioners to *London* for that Effect if they ſee Cauſe.

4. The ſaid Commiſſion are impowered to appoint Faſts and Thankſgivings as they ſhall ſee Occaſion, and ſpecifie the Cauſes thereof, and apply to His Majeſty for the civil Sanction thereto.

5. The Commiſſion are impowered to give Advice and Aſſiſtance to any Synod or Presbytery in difficult Caſes, as they ſhall be applied unto by them for that Effect.

6. The Commiſſion are impowered to take ſpecial Care to keep and maintain Unity in the Church upon all Emergents, eſpecially among the Miniſters thereof, and to gain ſuch as ſeparate therefrom, and to ſuppreſs Error and Schiſm in this Church, and proſecute the Authors and Spreaders of Books and Pamphlets tending thereto, and to take Notice how any who have been cenſured by preceeding Aſſemblies or Commiſſions of the ſame have carried, and to proceed to further Cenſure as the Commiſſion ſhall ſee Cauſe.

7. The Commiſſion are to take Notice of what Miſrepreſentations ſhall be made, either at Home or Abroad of the Doctrine, Worſhip, Diſcipline or Conſtitution of this Church, and to take all proper Methods for the Vindication thereof.

8. The ſaid Commiſſion are appointed to uſe their beſt Endeavours to obtain a Fund for erecting Schools in the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, and to get the ſame rightly proportioned, and to do what elſe may tend to the Advancement of Religion and Reformation in theſe Places, and to keep a Correſpondence with the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee, and to give them all ſuitable Aſſiſtance and Encouragement, according to the Acts of this and former Aſſemblies, and to uſe all proper Means in their Power, for extirpating idolatrous and ſuperſtitious Practices, and to obſerve the Inſtructions given by former Aſſemblies to their Commiſſions concerning Libraries, *Iriſh* Bibles, Pſalm Books and Catechiſms, a School in every Pariſh, according to the *Fifth Act* of the General Aſſembly, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeven: Alſo to hold Hand to the Execution of the *Eighth Act* of that Aſſembly for ſuppreſſing Popery, and preventing the Growth thereof; and likewiſe the *Fifteenth Act* of that Aſſembly againſt Innovations in the Worſhip of GOD.

9. The Commiſſion are impowered to ſend Miniſters and Probationers as Need requires, to the *North*, the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, and to remove them from one Place to another there, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe.

10. The Commiſſion are impowered to cognoſce, and finally determine in all References, and Appeals about Planting vacant Churches in the *North*, the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, which ſhall be brought before them, and that in the moſt expedite Manner, providing, That the Commiſſion do not meddle with Sentences of Synods in ſuch Caſes, excepting Cauſes particularly referred to them; But this Reſtriction is not to be extended to Miniſters or Probationers having *Iriſh*.

11. The ſaid Commiſſion are impowered to receive any Repreſentations, or References that ſhall be made to them by Presbyteries, and others concerned about large and ſpacious Pariſhes, and to uſe all Means proper for them for obtaining, and alſo rendering Effectual, and preſerving new Erections in ſuch Pariſhes, or Stipends to collegiate Miniſters.

12. The ſaid Commiſſion are impowered to give all due Aſſiſtance to the ſeveral Univerſities and Colleges, when any Miniſter is called to any Office therein, and to receive Appeals and References in theſe Caſes, and finally to determine in the ſame, and they are appointed to conſider the State of the ſaid Univerſities and Colleges, and to obſerve the *Fourteenth Act* of the General Aſſembly, *Anno*, One thouſand ſeven hundred and eleven, and as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, to apply for a Viſitation thereof; As likewiſe to enquire whether Synods and Presbyteries do maintain Burſars, according to the Acts of the General Aſſembly,

and

and to take Care to provide hopeful Youths having the *Irish* Tongue, and take the usual Obligations of them, and when Students having that Language, are found fit to be entered on Trials, that they recommend them to Presbyteries for that Effect, and when they shall be licensed, to send them to the *North*, the *Highlands* and *Islands*.

13. To enquire how the *Tenth Act* of the General Assembly, *Anno*, One thousand seven hundred and eleven, concerning Probationers, and settling Ministers, with Questions to be proposed to, and Engagements to be taken of them are observed, and to advert, that Masters in Colleges, and all School-masters do subscribe and engage according to the Act of the Parliament, *Anno*, One thousand seven hundred and seven.

14. That the Commission use their best Endeavours for further Reformation of Manners, and the more effectual curbing and suppressing of Profaneness and Vice, and promoting true Religion and Godliness, and think on some effectual Way to excite to, and recommend Family Worship, in Pursuance of the *Acts* of Assembly, particularly, the *Thirteenth Act* of the General Assembly, *Anno*, One thousand six hundred and ninety four, and *7th* and *11th Acts* of the General Assembly, *Anno*, One thousand six hundred and ninety seven, and others, and to enquire if His Majesty's pious Proclamation against Immorality has been read from the Pulpits according to former Orders.

15. The Commission are appointed to take the most effectual Course to get the Printing, Vending, or Importing of incorrect Copies of the Holy Scriptures, and of our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, stopt and prevented.

VIII.

ACT Concerning the Trial of Students having Irish, *who shall be preferred to Bursaries, and licensed.*

Edinburgh, 13*th May*, 1717. ante Meridiem, Sess. 11.

THE General Assembly considering, That diverse Students have been recommended to Burses, as Persons having the *Irish* Language, who, after they have been educated, are found not capable to serve in *Highland* Countries, for Want of sufficient Knowledge of that Tongue; and that sundry Probationers have been entred upon Trials for the Ministry, upon View that they might be useful in the *Highlands*, who yet when they are past and licensed, can do no Service for Want of sufficient Skill in the said Language, do, for preventing these Inconveniencies in Time coming, appoint, That such as crave the Benefit

of *Highland* Burſaries, or who are to be admitted to Trials for the Miniſtry, in Order to be ſent to the *Highlands*, be firſt examined upon their Knowledge in the *Iriſh* Language by Perſons having a competent Meaſure of Knowledge in that Language, bearing that they have ſo much Knowledge of that Language, as that they may be uſeful in a *Highland* Congregation. And do ordain, That the Names of the ſaid Examinators, together with their Report, be recorded in the Books of the Judicatory that imploys them in the ſaid Trials.

VIII.

ACT For ſuppreſſing of Popery.

Edinburgh, 13th *May*, 1717, Seſſ. 11.

THE General Aſſembly having conſidered the Complaints from Presbyteries, of the Growth of Popery, do find, That the Laws againſt the ſame are very full; And therefore in Order to the Execution of them, The General Aſſembly inſtructs their Commiſſion to apply to the Lord Juſtice Clerk, the Lord Advocate, and His Majeſty's Sollicitor, in Order to obtain a vigorous Execution of the Laws againſt Popery; and as to Popiſh School-maſters and Miſtreſſes, and Popiſh Factors and Chamberlains, the Aſſembly appoints Informations about them to be ſent to the Procurator and Agents for the Church, that they may be preſented according to Law; and becauſe it's neceſſary that the Informations to be given be regular, and the Means of Probation ſuch as the Law requires. Therefore the General Aſſembly appoints the Informers, in framing the ſaid Informations, to obſerve exactly the Directions given in this Matter, in the fifteenth Act of the General Aſſembly, *Anno*, One thouſand ſeven hundred and fourteen.

IX.

ACT For maintaining the Purity of the Doctrine of this Church, and determining the Proceſs, Mr. James Webſter *againſt Mr.* John Simſon.

Edinburgh, 14th *May*, 1717, Seſſ. 12.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering, That much of their Time has been ſpent upon the Proceſs purſued by Mr. *James Webſter*, one of the Miniſters of *Edinburgh*, againſt Mr. *John Simſon* Profeſſor of Divinity in

in the College of *Glaſgow*, laid before them by the Report of the Committee, for Purity of Doctrine; and that they cannot overtake the Whole, by diſcuſſing particularly every Article, it being nevertheleſs expedient and requiſite, That this Affair be brought to ſome Iſſue, that may teſtify the Zeal and Concern of this Aſſembly, for the Preſervation of Truth and Peace in this Church, and preventing what may tend to the Hurt and Prejudice thereof; Therefore, altho' Profeſſor *Simſon* does declare his Adherence to our *Confeſſion of Faith*, and Doctrines therein-contained as his Judgment, and his diſowning the Errors oppoſite thereto, wherewith he was charged; yet conſidering, That by his printed Anſwers, and the Letters written by him, to the now deceaſt Mr. *Robert Rowan*, ſometime Miniſter at *Penninghame*, and his Letter to the foreſaid Committee for Purity of Doctrine, dated the Fourteenth of *April*, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixteen Years, he hath given Offence, and that it is judged, That therein he hath vented ſome Opinions not neceſſary to be taught in Divinity, and that have given more Occaſion to Strife, than to the promoting of Edification, That he hath uſed ſome Expreſſions, that bear, and are uſed by Adverſaries, in a bad and unſound Senſe, tho he doth diſown that unſound Senſe; And for anſwering more ſatisfyingly (as he ſuppoſeth) the Cavils and Objections of Adverſaries, he hath adopted ſome Hypotheſes different from what are commonly uſed among Orthodox Divines, that are not evidently founded on Scripture, and tend to attribute too much to natural Reaſon and the Power of corrupt Nature, which undue Advancement of Reaſon and Nature, is always to the Diſparagement of Revelation and efficacious free Grace. The General Aſſembly for the Reaſons above-mentioned Prohibits, and diſcharges the ſaid Mr. *John Simſon* to uſe ſuch Expreſſions, or to teach, preach, or otherwiſe vent ſuch Opinions, Propoſitions, or Hypotheſes as aforeſaid: And as concerning the Parties in this Proceſs, whatever Complaints have been made as to the Manner of raiſing or managing this Proceſs on either Hand, the General Aſſembly for Peace's Sake, do overlook and paſs theſe without further inſiſting thereon, and do diſcharge any Proſecution on either Side on theſe Accounts; And further, for the more effectual preſerving the Purity of Doctrine and Peace of this Church, and preventing Strife and contentious Debates, which are prejudicial to Truth, brotherly Love, and the Life of ſerious Religion; The General Aſſembly extends the foreſaid Prohibition to all Profeſſors of Divinity, Miniſters and Preachers, and all others in this Church, and particularly, the General Aſſembly diſcharges them to vent any Doctrines not agreeable to our *Confeſſion of*

Faith and *Catechiſms*, eſpecially ſuch Opinions as either aſcribe too much to corrupt Nature, or tend to encourage Sloth among Chriſtians, or ſlacken Peoples Obligation unto Goſpel Holineſs. And moreover, the General Aſſembly recommends to all Faculties in Univerſities, and to all Preſbyteries within this Church, to ſee this Act obſerved by all the Perſons foreſaid within their ſeveral Juriſdictions, and to cenſure the Contraveeners as they ſhall ſee Cauſe: And the General Aſſemby impowers their Commiſſion to give Advice to Presbyteries, and to judge in Cauſes and Caſes of that Kind, that ſhall be brought before them, and when any ſuch Caſes ſhall happen, The General Aſſembly hereby appoints Presbyteries to acquaint the Commiſſion before they proceed to any Sentence of Suſpenſion, or Depoſition againſt any Perſon that ſhall come to be tried in Proſecution of this Act.

X.

ACT Diſcharging Presbyteries to uſe any Formula in licenſing Probationers, and ordaining or admitting Miniſters, but ſuch as is or ſhall be agreed unto by the General Aſſembly, with a Reference to the Commiſſion of the Presbytery of Auchterarder's *Carriage in that Matter.*

Edinburgh, 14th *May* 1717. Seſſ. 13.

THE Committee for Bills having tranſmitted to the Aſſembly, an Appeal entred by Mr. *William Craig*, againſt the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, for their refuſing to give him an Extract of his Licence to preach the Goſpel, notwithſtanding that he was approven by them in all the Steps of his Trials, and was actually licenſed; The Opinion of the Committee for Bills in this Matter was read, and the ſaid Mr. *William Craig*, and the Commiſſioners from the Presbytery of *Auchterarder* being called, the ſaid Mr. *Craig* Purſuer of this Appeal, and Mr. *Andrew Burgh*, one of the Commiſſioners from the Presbytery, compeared; and the Moderator of the Committee for Bills, gave a diſtinct Account of the whole Matter, as the ſame was laid before the ſaid Committee, particularly, That the ſaid Presbytery had refuſed Mr. *Craig* the Extract of his Licence, becauſe he did not ſatisfie them, as to ſome Articles of Faith required of him by them, whereof this was one, viz. *And further, That I believe that it is not*

Sound and Orthodox to teach, That we must forsake Sin in Order to our coming to Christ, and instating us in Covenant with GOD: Parties being heard and removed, the Assembly after discoursing upon the Subject of the said Appeal, and Answers made thereto, by the Commissioners from the Presbytery, did agree, That the foresaid Presbytery of *Auchterarder* be forthwith appointed, and the General Assembly hereby appoints the said Presbytery to give the said Mr. *William Craig* an Extract of his Licence to preach the Gospel, and do instruct their Commission to see this Appointment obeyed: And the General Assembly discharges the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, or any other Presbytery within this National Church, to require Subscriptions of any young Men to be licensed to preach the Gospel, or ordained to the Office of the Ministry, to any *Formula* but such as is, or shall be agreed to, and approven by the Assemblies of this Church. And further, The General Assembly did declare their Abhorrence of the foresaid Proposition, as unsound and most detestable, as it stands, and was offered by the said Presbytery to be subscribed by Mr. *Craig*: But in Regard the Ministers of the said Presbytery of *Auchterarder* were not present to answer for themselves, what they could design by such a Proposition; The Assembly agreed, That they should be called to an Account upon this Head. But a Question arising, Whether this should be done before the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, or the Commission of the General Assembly; a Vote was stated, Synod or Commission, and before calling of the Rolls, it was resolved, That in Case the Vote should carry for the Synod, then the Synod shall report to the Commission; After this the Roll being called, and Votes marked, it carried, Commission; Wherefore the General Assembly did, and hereby do appoint the Presbytery of *Auchterarder* to be cited to compear before the Commission of the General Assembly, at *Edinburgh* in the Assembly House, the second *Wednesday* of *August* next, with Continuation of Days, to answer to them in the Matter above-written, with Certification, *&c.* And the Assembly did, and hereby do impower their Commission to cognosce and determine in this Matter as they shall find just.

XI.

ACT Appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, 15th *May* 1717. Sess. *ult.*

THE next General Assembly of this National Church of *Scotland*, is appointed to be held at *Edinburgh*, the Fourteenth Day of *May* next to come, in the Year of our LORD, One thousand seven hundred and eighteen.

This Assembly was concluded with Prayer, Singing of the 133 *Psalm throughout, and pronouncing of the Blessing.*

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JO. DUNDAS, *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

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The King's Commiſſion to *John* Earl of *Rothes* recorded. *Ibidem.*

His Grace His Majeſty's Commiſſioner's Speech to the General Aſſembly at opening thereof. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to His Majeſty's Commiſſioner. *Ibid.*

Committee for drawing an Anſwer to His Majeſty's Letter. *Ibid.*

Committee appointed for Overtures, *&c. Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References and Appeals. *Ibid.*

Committee for reviſing the Commiſſions given to the Members of this Aſſembly by their Conſtituents, cenſuring Abſents, naming Miniſters to preach before His Majeſty's Commiſſioner, and to ſupply the Moderator's Diet of Preaching, and making up Liſts of Probationers and Students in Divinity, in order to be recorded. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion Book, and Synod Books, ordered to be brought in next Diet to be reviſed. *Ibid.*

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Miniſters named to preach before His Majeſty's Commiſſioner, and for the Moderator. *Ibid.*

Some more Commiſſions produced, and Additions made to Committees. *May* 4*th*, 1717. Seſſ. 3.

An Anſwer to His Majeſty's Gracious Letter unanimouſly approven, and Copies thereof ordered to be ſent to the Secretaries; And His Majeſty's Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's Deſire, undertakes to tranſmit the ſaid Anſwer to the King. *Ibid.*

A Diet appointed for hearing the Report of the Committee of the laſt General Aſſembly, for preſerving and maintaining the Purity of Doctrine in this Church, and conſidering the Proceſs, Mr. *James Webſter* againſt Mr. *John Simſon. Ibid.*

A Committee of ſome from every Synod, appointed to reviſe

reviſe the Regiſter of the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, and to audite the Procurator and Agent for the Church their Accompts; to conſider the State of the Church's publick Money, and prepare Overtures thereanent; as alſo, any Overtures and References made by the late Commiſſion to this Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Committees appointed for reviſing and examining the Actings of the Synods of *Roſs* and *Sutherland* and *Orkney*, Presbytery of *Zetland*, Synods of *Lothian* and *Tweddale*, *Merſs* and *Teviotdale*, *Drumfries*, *Perth*, and *Stirling* and *Aberdeen*, as recorded in their Books; and the Reviſers appointed to obſerve the Directions given by the General Aſſembly 1713, but the Books of the Synods of *Murray*, *Galloway*, *Glaſgow*, and *Air*, *Argyle*, *Fife* and *Angus*, and *Mearns* not being brought up, the Synods their Excuſes were admitted, and the Books ordered to be brought to the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to receive from the Commiſſioners of the ſeveral Presbyteries, their Synods and Presbyteries Inſtructions to them, and any new Overtures they have to offer, and to claſs the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures therefrom, and alſo to receive from them, Accounts of the State of the Church, in the *North*, the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, particularly, concerning the Growth of Popery and Superſtition, and to prepare Overtures for ſuppreſſing and preventing thereof. *Ibid.*

All the Commiſſions to the Members of this Aſſembly ſuſtained *pro hac Vice*, with Certification, That in Time coming Commiſſions not in the Terms of the Acts of Aſſembly, will be rejected; and Letters ordered to be written to Synods, concerning the Abſence of the Commiſſioners of their Presbyteries, appointing them to enquire into the Reaſons thereof, and to Presbyteries, Colleges and Burghs, recommending to them to take Care that their Repreſentatives ſubſcribe the *Confeſſion of Faith*, and be ſuch as can attend the Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Abſence of ſome Members excuſed. *Ibid.*

Intimation made to Members to give in the Names of Probationers and Students to a particular Member of the Committee for Commiſſions. *Ibid.*

William Hamilton, *Patrick Alexander*, and *Archibald* and Mr. *John Campbells*, Executors of the deceaſt *Agnes Campbell*, Relict of *Andrew Anderſon* Printer, appointed Printers to the Church in her Room, and in the Terms of the Act of the Aſſembly, One thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, in her Favours, and they allowed to give in the ſaid Mrs. *Anderſon*'s Accompt of Printings. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee for Purity of Doctrine called for, and the ſame with Mr. *Webſter*'s Proteſtation

againſt the Committee's Procedure in his Proceſs againſt Mr. *Simſon*, and Anſwers thereto recorded, and this Interrogator put to the Witneſſes, *viz.* In what Words to the beſt of their Remembrance they heard Mr. *Simſon* the Defender expreſs himſelf, upon the Subjects of the ſeveral Articles of the Libels ſuſtained, and placed in in the firſt Claſs, was by Vote approven as a relevant and proper Interrogator. *May 6th*, 1717. Seſſ. 4.

Mr. *James Webſter* complains, That the Members of Aſſembly that were Members of the Committee for Purity of Doctrine, had been allowed to vote in the Proceſs at his Inſtance againſt Mr. *Simſon*. *May 7th*, 1717. Seſſ. 5.

A ſelect Committee appointed to go through Mr. *Simſon*'s Anſwers to Mr. *Webſter*'s Libels, his Letter to the deceas'd Mr. *Robert Rowan*, Mr. *Webſter*'s Repreſentations, and other Papers of either Party, and pick out of them any Propoſitions, not conſidered by the Committee, which they may think erroneous, and fully to examine the ſaid Papers, or any other Books or Pamphlets publiſhed by them, or any Miniſter or Teacher within this Church, containing any Thing not agreeable to the Doctrine, and Form of ſound Words received in this Church, and Power given to them to receive Informations as to theſe Things, to call and hear theſe concerned, and in an orderly Way make what Inquiry is neceſſary in that Matter, and to proceed in the ſaid Inquiry, in every Thing, according to the Inſtructions given by the Aſſemblies 1715, and 1716, to the Committee for Purity of Doctrine. *Ibid.*

The Members of the Committee for Purity of Doctrine, who were Members of this Aſſembly, ſuſtained Judges in all the Steps of this Proceſs of Mr. *Webſter*'s againſt Mr. *Simſon*, and the ſaid Committee for Purity of Doctrine, found to have done well, in general, in ſenſing the Propoſitions charged upon Mr. *Simſon*, before they claſsed them, but with a Reſervation to the after Conſideration of the Aſſembly, whether the Senſes affixt to the ſeveral Propoſitions, were neceſſary and juſt or not. *Ibid.*

The 3*d*, 5*th*, 6*th*, 7*th*, and 8*th*, *Prop.* of *Art.* 1*ſt*, The 1*ſt*, 3*d*, and 4*th Prop.* of *Art.* 2*d*, and the 5*th*, and 6*th Prop.* of *Art.* 3*d*, placed by the Committee in the firſt Claſs, were read in the Order that they lay in that Report, and found to be denied by Mr. *Simſon*, and not proven againſt him. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to draw out of a Letter by Mr. *Simſon*, to the Committee for Purity of Doctrine, and his printed Anſwers to Mr. *Webſter*'s Libels, and other Papers of Mr. *Simſon*'s, ſuch Articles as they thought, did amount to a Proof, of the 7*th* and 8*th Prop.* of *Art.* 3*d*, as it

ſtands

ſtands in the Committee's Report, the Propoſition in one Column, and the Proofs in another, *eodem Die poſt Merid.* Seſſ. 6.

Injunction given to the Viſitors of Synod Books, to obſerve the Diligence of Synods, in promoting Collections, to the Behoof of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and a Recommendation to all Miniſters and People, to contribute, and give all Manner of Encouragment to that pious and charitable Undertaking. *May* 8*th*, 1717. Seſſ. 7.

Proofs of *Propoſition* 7*th*, of *Article* 3*d*, brought in by the Committee, and Mr. *Simſon*'s Anſwers thereto heard, and the Aſſembly ſatisfied in what Mr. *Simſon* had repreſented by Word and Writ before them, as to his Judgment upon the Subject of that Article, and found, That the Paſſages condeſcended upon in his Letter and Anſwers, did not amount to a Proof of that Propoſition, as it is laid by the Committee; yet becauſe ſome Expreſſions uſed by Mr. *Simſon* on this Subject in his ſaid Anſwers and Letter, were unguarded and liable to Miſconſtruction; Mr. *Simſon* was admoniſhed to forbear them, And a Committee appointed for conſidering Mr. *Webſter*'s offenſive Carriage before the General Aſſembly, and prepare an Overture to prevent entring Proteſtations againſt the Proceedings of the General Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

The 8*th*, 9*th*, and 11*th Propoſitions* of *Article* 3*d*, found not proven, and *Article* 4*th*, as ſet down in the Commitee's Report, and ſuſtained relevant by them, found not proven, by the Paſſages quotted from Mr. *Simſon*'s Anſwers, *Page* 124. *Ibid.*

Report of the Committee concerning Mr. *Webſter*'s Carriage before the General Aſſembly, and his full Acknowledgement of the Offence he had given, which was accepted; and an Overture to prevent Proteſtations of Parties, or their Procurators, againſt Sentences of Aſſembly remitted to the Committee for Overtures. *May* 9*th*, 1717. Seſſ. 8.

Miniſters named to preach before His Majeſty's Commiſſioner, and for the Moderator. *Ibid.*

The 1*ſt*, 2*d*, 3*d*, 4*th*, 6*th*, 7*th* and 8*th Propoſitions* of *Article* 6*th*, and 1*ſt Propoſition* of *Article* 7*th*, as they ſtood placed in the firſt Claſs in the Committee's Report, denied by Mr. *Simſon*, and found not proven, and the laſt Part of the 2*d*, and the whole 4*th Propoſition* of *Article* 7*th*, as in the ſaid Report, and a Diſſent of ſome Brethren of the Committee for Purity of Doctrine againſt the Committe, their ſenſing the ſaid Propoſitions before they claſſed them, and for not claſſing them as they ſtood in the Libels, Reaſons of that Diſſent, and Anſwers thereto, and the Scriptures, and Paſſages of the

Confeſſion of Faith and *Catechiſms* therein quotted, all read, and a Complaint tabled by ſome Members of Aſſembly, againſt the Committee for reſtricting themſelves, in their determining the above, and other Propoſitions of the Libels, only to the *Confeſſion of Faith* and *Catechiſms* as the Rule, heard and conſidered; and found, That the Committee had done Right and according to their Inſtructions in keeping by the fixed Standard of Doctrine, in conſidering the Articles of the Libels that lay before them, and reſolved, That in conſidering the Committee's Procedure, and judging the Articles brought before the Aſſembly by their Report, the Aſſembly will determine according to the *Confeſſion of Faith* and *Catechiſms*, reſerving always the Weight of theſe Propoſitions not determined in our *Confeſſion of Faith* and *Catechiſms*, to be afterward conſidered, and found, That there was no Prejudice done to Truth by the Committee's declaring the different Senſes, in which theſe Propoſitions might be underſtood; and that thereby there was a larger Field given for Proof againſt the Profeſſor; The ſaid Propoſitions denied by the Profeſſor, and ſome Proofs adduced againſt him from his printed Anſwers, committed. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, and *Lothian* and *Tweddale*, examined and atteſted. *May* 10*th*, 1717. Seſſ. 9.

The Commiſſion Book examined, and atteſted according to the 8*th Act* of the Aſſembly, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix, and the Members of the Commiſſion commended for their Faithfulneſs and Diligence. *Ibid.*

Remit to the Committee for the *North*, &c. to inquire into the Reaſons, why Maſters *Daniel Campbell*, *Archibald M'Lean* Probationers, *John Row*, *John Monro* and *David Muſhet* having *Iriſh*, have not obeyed the Appointments laid upon them by the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, to go and ſupply in the *North*; And to conſider the Presbytery of *Zetland*'s Demand of a ſupernumerary Probationer to preach in the fair *Iſland*, and *Iſlands* of *Foulla* and *Skerries*. *Ibid.*

Remit to the Committee for Overtures, to enquire of Brethren from the ſeveral Presbyteries, an Account of their Diligence in anſwering the Letters, written to them by the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, concerning Schools, Burſaries, Profanity, and other Heads therein expreſt; and to conſider Maſters *Francis Robertſon* and *James Anderſon*'s Claims to the Presbytery Burſe of *Haddingtoun* and *Dumbar*. *Ibid.*

The Procurator and Agents their Accompts laid upon the Table until another Meeting. *Ibid.*

The Procurator and Agents for the Church appointed to carry on a Proceſs for obtaining a legal Stipend to Mr. *John*

John Gillis Miniſter at *Carraldſtoun*, upon the publick Charges of the Church. *Ibid.*

Reſolve to call for the Report of the Commiſſioners ſent to *London*, by the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, about the Church's Affairs at another Diet. *Ibid.*

Remit to the Committee for Overtures, to enquire what Obedience the Presbytery of *Kelſo* has given to the Advice of the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, with Reſpect to Mr. *Robert Brown* Miniſter of *Roxburgh*, who was conveened before them, for Diſaffection to His Majeſty's Perſon and Government. *Ibid.*

The Members of this Aſſembly ordered to meet by their Synods ſeverally, to name Perſons to be on a Committee, for nominating the Members of a Commiſſion, to be appointed by this Aſſembly, and to prepare Draughts of their Commiſſion and Inſtructions. *Ibid.*

Report as to the laſt Part of the 2*d* and whole 4*th Propoſition* of *Article 7th*, Proofs thereof, and Queries thereupon, and Anſwers made thereto by Profeſſor *Simſon*, brought in, read and fully reaſoned and diſcourſed, and the ſame again remitted to a Committee, to prepare an Overture for a Deciſion therein, and to think upon ſome proper Expedient, to bring the Whole of Mr. *Webſter*'s Proceſs againſt Profeſſor *Simſon* to a ſpeedy and deſirable Iſſue. *Ibid.*

Liſt of Perſons in the ſeveral Synods brought in, and appointed as a Committee, for drawing the Commiſſion to be given by this Aſſembly, naming the Perſons to be thereon, and preparing their Inſtructions. *May* 11*th* 1717. Seſſ. 10.

Act appointing the Sum of 1227 *Lib.* 1 *ſh.* and 4 *d. Scots* Money, to be payed to Mr. *Alexander Mitchell* Miniſter of old *Machir*, out of the Church's publick Money, according to the Rules and Orders of the 7*th* Act of Aſſembly 1712, in full of his Expences, in ſettling the Stipends of both the Miniſters of old *Machir*. *Ibid.*

The Procurator and Agent's Accompts again called for, the Report relating thereto read, and ordered yet to ly upon the Table until the next *Sederunt*, to be peruſed by any Members that inclined to inſpect the ſame. *Ibid.*

A Collection allowed in Aſſembly for ſome poor People, and Orders given about the Diſtribution thereof. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly earneſtly addreſſes His Majeſty's Commiſſioner to interceed with His Majeſty, in Behalf of Mr. *Alexander Turcan* Miniſter of *Glendovan*, for a Gift of ſome of the Biſhop's Rents of *Dunkeld* or *Dumblain*, or any others, to make up his ſmall Stipend, at leaſt to a Competency; and his Grace promiſes his Aſſiſtance; and further,

further, the Commiſſion is inſtructed to do what in them lies to further Mr. *Turcan*'s Affair. *Ibid.*

Act disjoining the Pariſh of *Duirs* from the Presbytery of *Fordoun*, and Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, and annexing it to the Presbytery and Synod of *Aberdeen*, and declaring Mr. *Robert Melvill* and his Succeſſors, Miniſters of *Duirs*, conſtituent Members of the ſaid Presbytery and Synod of *Aberdeen*, in all Time coming. *Ibid.*

The Matters ſet forth in a Petition of the Presbyteries in *Orkney*, intreating the Aſſembly might addreſs His Majeſty for the Biſhop's Rents there, for maintaining more Miniſters, ſettling Schools, *&c.* conſidered, and the Papers mentioned in that Petition, remitted to the Committee for the *North*, &c. except as to the Disjunction craved of the Presbytery of the North *Iſles*, from the Synod of *Caithneſs* when they meet in *Caithneſs*, as to which Letters were ordered to be written to that Synod, requiring them to ſend their Judgment therein to the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Act and Recommendation of a publick Collection, in all Towns and Sea-faring Places, upon the ſecond LORD's Day of *July* next, for building a Church at the Port of *Cairſtoun*, in the Pariſh of *Stromneſs* and *Sandwick* in *Orkney*, to be put in the Hands of the Clerks of the reſpective Presbyteries, and tranſmitted to *Edinburgh* to *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, who is to ſend it to the Moderator of the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*, for the Time being, to be applied at the Sight of that Presbytery to the End foreſaid. *Ibid.*

Reſolve to take under Conſideration upon *Tueſday* next, the Proceſs for tranſporting Mr. *Allan Logan* from *Torriburn* to *Culroſs*. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Presbytery of *Peebles* to go on in the Settlement of Mr. *John Hay* Probationer, as Miniſter of the Town and Pariſh of *Peebles*, and to perfect it before the firſt Day of *July* next to come, and the Sentence of the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweddale* in that Matter approven, and a Committee appointed to meet and confer with the Brethren from that Presbytery, and the People of the ſaid Pariſh who have oppoſed this Settlement. *Ibid.*

The planting of the Pariſh of *Dumfermling* with a Miniſter referred to the Commiſſion. *Ibid.*

The Determination of the Caſe of Mr. *Andrew Dickſon* Miniſter of *Aberladie*'s irregular Marriage while a Probationer, referred to the Commiſſion. *Ibid.*

The Pariſh of *Cloſsburn* appointed to proſecute their Call to Mr. *Thomas Boſtoun*, firſt before the Presbytery of *Selkirk* in due Form, and the ſaid Presbytery enjoined to determine in the ſame, betwixt and the firſt of *Auguſt* next,

and

and that Pariſh allowed, if need be, to appeal either to the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, or to the Commiſſion which ever of them ſhould firſt ſit, and the Commiſſion inſtructed and impowered, with all Diſpatch to determine in that Proceſs, or any other Proceſs that ſhall come before them, for planting the ſaid Pariſh of *Cloſsburn* with a Miniſter, whether the Appeal come from the Presbytery or Synod. *Ibid.*

The Inſtruction and Power given to the Commiſſion to determine in any Appeal, Reference or Application to them, anent Planting the Pariſh of *Keltines*, but the Commiſſion diſcharged to meddle in the Tranſportation of Mr. *John Gray* to that Place, until firſt the Matter has been before the Presbytery and Synod of the Bounds *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, of the Caſe of Mr. *John Pearſon* Incumbent at *Kirkmichael*, his ſcandalous Acceſſion to the late unnatural Rebellion. *Ibid.*

The Conſideration of the Matters, ſet forth in the Petitions of the Presbytery of *Zetland*, and Mr. *John Duncan* Miniſter at *Breſſay* and *Burray* Commiſſioner from that Preſbytery, particularly their Requeſt that His Majeſty might be addreſſed for ſome Part of the Biſhops Rents in *Orkney*, to be applied for Disjunctions and new Erections of Pariſhes, repairing of Kirks and Manſes, and planting of Schools, *&c.* remitted to the Committee for the *North*, *&c. Ibid.*

Mr. *William Stewart* Miniſter at *Inverneſs*, his Excuſe for not attending the General Aſſembly admitted. *May* 13, 1717. Seſ. 11.

His Majeſty's Commiſſioner acquaints the Aſſembly with His Majeſty's Receipt and Gracious Acceptance of their Return to His Letter, *&c. Ibid.*

Committee for Mr. *Simſon*'s Affair again ordered to meet. *Ibid.*

Brethren named to diſtribute the Money collected for the Poor. *Ibid.*

Æneas Macknab in *Strathardel* recommended to the Preſbyteries in the Synods of *Angus*, *Perth* and *Glaſgow* for charitable Supply. *Ibid.*

Mr. *William Mitchell* late Miniſter at new *Machir*, recommended to the Presbyteries in all the Synods of *Scotland* for charitable Supply, to be ſent in to Mr. *William Miller* one of the Miniſters of *Edinburgh* for his Uſe. *Ibid.*

John Binning recommended to the Presbyteries in the Synods of *Glaſgow* and *Air* for charitable Supply. *Ibid.*

John Fraſer recommended to the Presbyteries in the Synods of *Angus*, *Perth*, *Fife* and *Lothian*, for charitable Supply. *Ibid.*

A Commiſſion appointed by this Aſſembly, and their Power and Inſtructions unanimouſly approven. *Ibid.*

Reference by the General Aſſembly 1714, to the Commiſſion of the Petition of Mr. *Daniel M'Lauren*, craving to be declared tranſportable, becauſe of Grievances at *Kilſinan*, renewed, and the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly impowered, as to that Matter, in the Terms of the former Reference. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accompts of Mr. *John Dundas* Advocate Procurator for the Church, for the laſt Quarter of His Majeſty's Allowance to the Church, at the Diſpoſal of the General Aſſembly 1715, for defraying the Charges of that Year, and a whole Year of the ſaid Allowance for defraying the Charges of the Year 1716, according to the Appointment of the Act 11*th* of the General Aſſembly 1712, and diſcharging him and his Cautioner of his Intromiſſions, and appointing the Ballance of 33 *Lib.* 15 *ſh.* 9$\frac{1}{2}$ *d. Sterling* Money due to him to be ſtated as the firſt Article of his next Accompts. *Ibid.*

Act approving *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, his Accompts of Receipt of the Church's Money and Deburſements thereof, on the Church's Affairs, from the firſt of *May* 1715, to the firſt of *May* 1717 Years, as alſo his Accompts of the Quarter *Centeſima* of Miniſters Stipends recommended by the Aſſembly 1707, for defraying the Charges of a Miſſion againſt Popery, and of another Quarter *Centeſima* recommended, *Anno* 1710, to defray the Procurator's Charges at *London* that Year, about the Church's Affairs, and likewiſe his Accompts of the Expences of Proceſſes againſt Intruders into Churches, and Rabblers in the *North*, and diſcharging him of his ſaid Intromiſſions, and appointing the Ballance of 106 *Lib.* 16 *ſh.* 9$\frac{1}{2}$ *d. Sterling* Money due to him, to be payed according to the Rules laid down by the Acts of Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

The Books of the Synods of *Orkney*, *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, *Drumfries*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, and *Aberdeen* atteſted, and the Synod Book of *Orkney*, with an Advice to that Synod, That they take Care to put the Queſtions to their Members, that are appointed to be asked at their privie Cenſures, and the Synod Book of *Drumfries*, with an Advice to that Synod, that they take Care the Meetings of their Synods be more exactly attended by their Members, and that they fill up their Book compleatly againſt the next Aſſembly, and bring the ſame up to be reviſed. *Ibid.*

The reviſing and atteſting of the Presbytery Book of *Zetland*, remitted to the Commiſſion. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion inſtructed and impowered to give what Directions they ſhall ſee neceſſary and proper, with Reſpect

ſpect to the late Viſcounteſs of *Kenmure*'s Mortification, to the ſometime ſuffering Presbyterian Miniſters. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion impowered to take the Caſe of Mr. *Robert Brown* Miniſter of *Roxburgh*, under their Conſideration, and to call him before them and cenſure him further, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion appointed to uſe all proper Endeavours, to obtain Gifts of the Rents of the Biſhopricks of *Roſs*, *Caithneſs* and *Orkney*, for maintaining Miniſters in more Pariſhes to be erected there, and for Catechiſts. *Ibid.*

Act allowing 100 *Lib. Scots* Money yearly, for defraying the Charges of the Commiſſioners from *Zetland*, to the General Aſſembly, in Reſpect of their Diſtance from *Edinburgh*, and the Difficulty and Uncertainty of their Paſſage hither, and to begin with Aſſembly 1716. *Ibid.*

The Petitions of the Presbyteries of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, and the Petition and Recommendation of the Synod of *Orkney* and *Caithneſs*, in Favours of Mr. *Thomas Buikie*, referred to the Commiſſion, in ſo far as the Aſſembly has not got the Affairs therein ſet forth overtaken. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to wait on the Earl of *Mortoun*, and give him Thanks for his Kindneſs to the Miniſters in *Orkney* and *Zetland*, and to intreat the Continuance of his Favour. *Ibid.*

Appointment on the Procurators and Agents, to aſſiſt in ſettling the Stipends of *Tain*, *Dornock*, *Suddie*, *Navar*, and *Cerraldſtoun*. *Ibid.*

Referred to the Commiſſion, to conſider what may be done, to make up the Loſs of the publick Libraries in the *North*, deſtroyed or taken away, during the late Rebellion, and the Loſſes ſuſtained by Miniſters there during that Time. *Ibid.*

Referred to the Commiſſion to conſider the Circumſtances of Mr *Thomas Mitchell* at *Aberlemno*, and do what they can for redreſſing his Grievances. *Ibid.*

Mr. *Archibald M'Lean* Probationer, excuſed for his not going to ſupply in *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, being gone to *Ireland* to preach in Popiſh Countries, at the earneſt Invitation of Miniſters in *Ireland*, and Mr. *Daniel Campbell* excuſed, becauſe neceſſarly detained in *Argyle*, to ſupply the vacant Charges of infirm Miniſters there, who are many, and that he is the only Probationer in that Country, Mr. *John Row* excuſed, as not having the *Iriſh* Tongue, and found, That Mr. *John Monro* was not yet licenſed, and Mr. *David Maſſet* referred to the Commiſſion to be examined, for his Diſobedience to the Appointment laid on him by the Commiſſion of the laſt Aſſembly, to go and ſupply in the *North*. *Ibid.*

Act appointing, That the Examinators of Students to be Recommended to *Iriſh* Burſaries, or to be admitted to

Trials for the Miniſtry, in Order to be ſent to the *Highlands*, by Perſons who have a competent Skill in the *Iriſh* Language, and that the Names of theſe Examinators, together with their Report, be recorded in the Books of the Judicatory that imploys them in the ſaid Trials. *Ibid.*

Mr. *John Skeldoch* Student having *Iriſh*, being tried as to his Skill in that Language, by Mr. *Robert Glen* Miniſter at *Kingarth*, and Mr. *Dougal Campbell* at *Canrie*, is recommended to the Commiſſion, that they may provide him in a Burſary. *Ibid.*

Act allowing Mr. *David Strang* Probationer, as Succeſſor to Mr. *James Stevenſon*, Preacher in the Popiſh Country of *Glenlivet*, 400 Merks yearly during his Service there, commencing from *Martinmas* laſt by paſt. *Ibid.*

An Overture in Favours of Widows and Orphans of deceas'd Miniſters, propoſing a Contribution of a Tenth of Miniſters Stipends for one Year, and other Expedients to make up a common Stock for their Support and Relief, and the Erection of a Society for managing that Stock, referred to the Commiſſion, that they may think on proper Ways to make that Project uſeful and effectual, and report to the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

The Presbytery of *Drumfries* and *Lochmaben*, appointed to go on in a Proceſs of Excommunication, againſt Mr. *James Gilchriſt* and Mr. *John Taylor*, with all Expedition, and the Presbytery of *Drumfries*, appointed to commence a Proceſs of Depoſition, againſt Mr. *John Hepburn* for his ſchiſmatick and irregular Practices, and to adduce Probation, providing they find that he continues in his Irregularities; But that Presbytery appointed, before they begin the Proceſs, to take the beſt Information they can get of Mr. *Hepburn*'s Carriage, and report to the Commiſſion in *Auguſt* next, and receive their Orders thereanent, and the ſaid Presbytery ordered, when they have brought the ſaid Proceſs *uſque ad Sententiam*, to lay the ſame before the Commiſſion, and the Commiſſion impowered to judge therein as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, and alſo to apply to the civil Magiſtrate, that effectual Means may be uſed, to put Presbyteries in Poſſeſſion of the Kirks and Manſes of depoſed Miniſters. *Ibid.*

Mr. *Allan Logan* tranſported from *Torriburn* to *Culroſs*, *May* 14. Seſſ. 12.

Report of the Commiſſioners ſent by the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly to *London*, about the Grievances and other Affairs of the Church, laid before the Aſſembly, and they found to have acted conform to their Inſtructions in all Things, and are therefore thanked for their prudent, zealous and faithful Management of the Matters intruſted to them. *Ibid.*

Act ordering the Diligence of the ſeveral Judicatures, in proſecuting what is incumbent on them, from the Laws and Acts of Aſſembly, with Reſpect to a School in every Pariſh, to be particularly enquired into at the privy Cenſures of Synods and Presbyteries, and referring an Overture for an Act, with Reſpect to Teachers in Univerſities, Colleges and Schools to the Commiſſion, to be prepared by them to the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Mr. *John Skeldoch*, having undertaken when he comes to be licenſed, to imploy his Talent in the *Iriſh* Language, for the Benefit of the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, is in that View recommended to the Synods of *Perth* and *Stirling*, for their vacant Burſe. *May* 14. 1717. poſt Merid. Seſſ. 13.

Mr. *Francis Robertſon* Student having *Iriſh*, recommended to the Synod of *Fife*, for their vacant Burſe, and Mr. *James Anderſon*, allowed to continue in the Poſſeſſion of the Burſe of the Persbytery of *Haddingtoun* and *Dunbar*, the ſaid Mr. *Robertſon* and Mr. *Anderſon* having undertaken when they come to be licenſed, to imploy their Talents in the *Iriſh* Language, for the Benefit of the *Highlands*. *Ib.*

Some Brethren appointed to correſpond with the Presbytery of *Peebles*, and to act and vote in their Meetings at their next enſuing Diet, and thereafter, until the Settlement of Mr. *John Hay* in the Pariſh of *Peebles* be compleated, and to concur with them in his Ordination. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, of an Appeal of ſome of the Pariſhoners of *Kilſpindie*, from the Sentence of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, looſing Mr. *William Inglis* his Relation to that Pariſh, and of an Appeal from the Presbytery of *Perth*, to the ſaid Synod in that Matter. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion of Mr. *William Inglis* his Demand, of an ample Teſtimonial from the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, referred by them to the Aſſembly, and of a Proceſs at the Inſtance of ſome of the Pariſhioners of *Kilſpindie*, with Reſpect to the ſaid Mr. *Inglis* his Relation to that Pariſh of *Kilſpindie*, and the Clerk of that Synod ordered to give Extracts of the Proceſs upon reaſonable Payment. *Ibid.*

The Caſe of Mr. *James Robertſon* Miniſter at *Glenmuck*, remitted to the Presbytery of *Kintardin*, and Synod of *Aberdeen*, and they appointed to report their Judgment thereof to the Meeting of the Commiſſion in *November* next, and the Commiſſion inſtructed and impowered, to declare the ſaid Mr. *Robertſon* Tranſportable to another leſſer *Highland* Congregation, if any Invitation occur, betwixt and a certain Time, to be limited by the Commiſſion, and failing ſuch Invitation, to declare him Tranſportable *ſimpliciter*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, of Mr. *James Stewart* Miniſter of the Goſpel his Appeal, from the Sentence of the Synod

of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, ſuſpending him from the Exerciſe of his Miniſtry. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, of Mr. *John Blair* late Miniſter at *Scoony*, his Appeal from the Sentence of the Synod of *Fife*, depoſing him from the Office of the Miniſtry. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, of Mr. *James Ker* Miniſter at *Dun*, his Demand of the Aſſembly's Aſſiſtance, to obtain an Addition to his Stipend, out of the Biſhops Rents, and the Commiſſion appointed to aſſiſt him in this Matter. *May* 15. 1717. Seſſ. ult.

Intimation made, of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, their Sentence of Excommunication, againſt Mr. *John Adamſon*, and Order for publiſhing the ſaid Sentence, in Manner preſcribed by the 9th Act of Aſſembly 1704. *Ibid.*

A ſecond Appointment upon the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, forthwith to give Mr. *William Craig* his Licence, and to lay before the Commiſſion, any Proceſs that ſhall be intented againſt him, before they proceed to a Sentence therein. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion inſtructed and impowered, to give their Advice and Aſſiſtance, for procuring Payment of what is yet reſting of the Biſhops Rents, Crop 1690, gifted by King *William* and Queen *Mary* to the Presbyterian Miniſters, outed from the Year 1660, till the late Revolution, for not conforming to the Courſes of thoſe Times, and to their Relicts and Children, and to call the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to an Account of their Diligence in that Matter, and to appoint a Committee, to diſtribute what of the ſaid Years Rents ſhall be got in, according to, and in the Terms of, the Royal Gift, and Commiſſion granted by the Perſons having Intereſt, to the ſaid Procurator and Agent to the Church, and to exoner the ſaid Procurator and Agent, as the ſaid Committee ſhall ſee Cauſe. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, of the State of the *Highland* Bounds of the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, by Reaſon of many Vacancies, and Want of Probationers having the *Highland* Language, and the Presbytery's Charges in purging and planting the Churches in their Bounds, with Power to ſend Probationers thither, and to give the Presbytery 30 *Lib. Sterling*, out of the Church's publick Money, for their ſaid Charges as they ſee fit. *Ibid.*

The Beddals or Officers of Aſſembly, allowed Twelve *Lib. Sterling*, for their Attendance upon the Committee for Purity of Doctrine. *Ibid.*

Liſt of Probationers and Students of Divinity ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

Proteſtation admitted for the Synod of *Aberdeen*, againſt the Pariſh of *Cruden*, for not inſiſting in their Appeal, in the Call given by them to Mr. *John Osburn* to be Miniſter there. *Ibid.*

Proteſtation admitted for the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, againſt the Pariſh of *Muckart*, for not inſiſting in their Appeal, in the Tranſportation of Mr. *Andrew Ure* to *Foſſoway*. *Ibid.*

Proteſtation admitted, for the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, againſt *William Thain* and *Peter Fife* in *Glams*, for not inſiſting in their Appeal, againſt admitting Mr. *William Dun* to be Miniſter of *Glams*. *Ibid.*

Committee for reviſing the Minutes of this Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Moderator's Speech, and the Commiſſioner's Speech; Concluſion of the Aſſembly. *Ibidem.*

FINIS.